

VZCZCXYZ0002
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBS #0179/01 0431627
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 121627Z FEB 10 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0019

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 000179

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

STATE PASS EUR/WE ROBERT MARCUS AND G/TIP JENNIFER DONNELLY AND AMY
ROFMAN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [SOCI](#) [KTIP](#) [BE](#)
SUBJECT: BELGIUM:2010 TIP REPORT

¶1. (U) This is the draft TIP report provided by U.S. Embassy
Brussels. The data included is old data, and the GOB predicts that
new data will be available to complete this report in April, 2010.

¶2. (SBU) BEGIN TEXT OF TIP REPORT, with numbering from instruction
cable.

¶25. (SBU) THE COUNTRY'S TIP SITUATION

-- A. Information on the persons is supplied by the Justice Ministry, the
and the CombatR), the shelters for
vicpo available through parliaments. These sources are reliable, and

Belgium is a country where persons are often held in cages take the following
ion when
rendering co
in economic exploitation of identity documents; hence; and use of extortion
exploitation often travel their destination
c aliens by overstaying of sexual exploitations.

-- D. Belgium is.

-- E. Traffickers in international crime syndicates organizations active in
me. Criminals professionally
organized. Ring leaders often operate from outside Belgium and make
use of middlemen. Most of these criminal organizations come from
Western Africa, Bulgaria, and Romania. Female victims are
increasingly well-paid by their traffickers to improve their
cooperation, often have worked in prostitution before arriving in
Belgium, usually hold legal documents, and frequently commute
between their home country and Belgium. Whereas traditional
prostitution is diminishing, massage parlors, commercial escort
services, and internet prostitution are gaining ground. The
non-traditional forms of prostitution and ambiguities in the law
make it increasingly difficult to establish the link between
trafficker and victim. Victims of economic exploitation are often
trafficked through employment agencies to which they are bound by
debt obligations, or claim to be self-employed to obtain legal
status in Belgium. Marriage brokers are also involved in
trafficking.

¶26. (U) SETTING THE SCENE FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-TIP EFFORTS:

-- A. The Belgian authorities acknowledge that trafficking is a
problem and are committed to combating TIP.

-- B. The Council of Ministers sets Belgium's anti-trafficking
policy orientation, which is implemented through the
Interdepartmental Coordination Unit for the Combat against
Trafficking and Smuggling. The anti-TIP effort is a key part of the
government's 2008-2011 law enforcement program. The Coordination
Unit meets two or three times per year, and is chaired by the

Justice Minister. A secondary, technical level inter-agency group meets monthly to carry out the Coordination Unit's directives. This group includes representatives from the Criminal Policy Department of the Justice Ministry, the Center for Equal Opportunities and the Combat against Racism (CEOCR), the Immigration Office, the Federal Police, the State Security Service, the Social Welfare Ministry, and the Employment Ministry. Under the law, the Centre of Information and Analysis on Trafficking and Smuggling of Human Beings (CIATTEH-IAMM) is charged with gathering information about trafficking, but it is hampered by Belgium's strict legal privacy restrictions. Negotiations to make IAMM/CIATTEH operational continued during the reporting period. Coordinating the activities of labor and social law inspection services is in the hands of the Social Information and Investigation Service (SIOD), a federal information and detection service.

--

1C. Neither funding nor corruption is considered impediments to combating trafficking in Belgium.

-- D. Over the past several years Belgium has greatly improved its data gathering regarding trafficking, with information supplied by the Justice Ministry, the Federal Police, and the three specialized trafficking shelters. The Center for Equal Opportunity and the Combat against Racism (CEOCR) is tasked with issuing an annual evaluation report on the government's anti-trafficking policy and efforts. The CEOCR's 2008 annual trafficking report was issued on October 7, 2009.

In December 2009 the Senate Interior Committee decided to establish a trafficking working group, reviving a subcommittee whose meetings were discontinued in 2003.

1E. (U) Birth, nationality, marriage and residence registration are mandatory. Belgian nationals and registered foreigners are obliged to carry ID cards, and the authorities in conjunction with Child Focus have developed "Kids ID" for children traveling abroad.

1F. (U) All law enforcement agencies are under a legal obligation to gather data and to assess progress.

127. (U) INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS.

-- A. The first anti-smuggling measures were taken under the 1980 Access to the Territory, Residence, and Immigration Act. In 1995 Parliament adopted the first comprehensive anti-trafficking act. The Belgian act of April 13, 1995, contained a series of measures aimed at repressing human trafficking and child pornography. The law defined trafficking in persons as "helping in any way whatsoever, either directly or through an intermediary, an alien who enters or resides in Belgium, and, in doing so, directly or indirectly making use of fraudulent practices, violence, threats or any form of force against that alien on account of his or her uncertain administrative status or due to pregnancy, illness, disability or mental disorder." In 2002, Parliament adopted legislation to combat organized crime more effectively. A further restructuring of the anti-trafficking effort occurred in 2004.

In 2005, lawmakers adopted a major overhaul of the 1995 legislation.

It aligned Belgian legislation with prevailing European and international law, in particular the additional protocols to the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (2000), The EU Council framework decision on combating trafficking in human beings (2002), the EU directive on the facilitation of unauthorized entry, transit and residence (2002), and the EU Council framework decision on the strengthening of the penal framework to prevent the facilitation of unauthorized entry, transit and residence.

Following passage of the 2005 law, it became possible to pursue criminal cases for recruiting, transporting, transiting, providing shelter, and passing on the control over persons for the purpose of prostitution, child pornography, begging, economic exploitation, organ transplant or forced commission of crimes. This law made it easier for the authorities to arrest slumlords, and combat forced begging. Moreover, the new legislation applied to both Belgian and foreign perpetrators, and it made it possible to pursue domestic trafficking cases. It set a distinct definition for smuggling as opposed to trafficking, and eliminated consent of the victim as a

defense against criminal charges. Aggravating circumstances included committing fraud, threatening the life of the victims, involvement in a criminal organization, vulnerability of the victim (under age), use of violence, and causing severe harm to or death of the victim. The authorities amended the 2005 law in 2006 by making it a crime to contract a fake marriage, receive compensation for arranging a fake marriage, or inciting others to do so.

The September 15, 2006 law permitted trafficking victims who opted to collaborate with the authorities to obtain legal guarantees to remain in Belgium. The legislation came into force June 1, 2007. On February 1, 2007 the Justice Minister issued a new directive on investigating and prosecuting trafficking cases. The directive better defined economic exploitation, and it contained a detailed list of trafficking indicators. It provided for coordination by the prosecuting magistrates, and listed cases that have to be prioritized (young victims, abuse of human dignity, use of force, or organized crime). The directive also contained provisos on how police forces are to conduct investigations, and it emphasized the need to direct victims to specialized shelters. On October 31, 2008, a directive came into force on multidisciplinary cooperation for the protection of victims of trafficking and serious forms of smuggling. The directive explained how to detect and inform potential victims, and detailed the procedure to be followed by the various services involved in combating trafficking.

-- B. and C. Persons convicted of violating anti-trafficking legislation are subject to one to five years of imprisonment and are fined between 2,750 Euros (\$3,575) and 275,000 Euros (\$357,500). For repeat offenders, those convicted for offences of an organized nature, or other in other aggravating circumstances, the punishment increases from 10 to 15 years imprisonment along with fines up to 550,000 euro. If the offenders belong to a criminal organization, or if the trafficking results in manslaughter, the punishment is 15 to 20 years imprisonment and a fine ranging from 5,000 euro (\$6,500) to 825,000 euro (\$1,072,500). Persons convicted of trafficking for economic exploitation are subject to one to five years imprisonment and are fined between 2,750 euro (\$3,575) and 275,000 euro ((\$357,500). The law specifies that Belgian nationals can also be victims of economic exploitation. The law defines economic exploitation as employment in circumstances that violate the employee's human dignity. Belgium is using a much broader definition than the European Framework decision. The use of force or exploitation of vulnerability is not required for a finding of exploitation. Employers or labor agents who confiscate workers' passports or travel documents for the purpose of trafficking or switch contracts without the worker's consent violate the law. Moreover, wage, hours, and working conditions that do not meet the standards of the prevailing labor legislation and collective bargaining agreements are considered exploitation of labor under Belgian law.

-- D. Penalties for rape and forcible sexual assault are rather similar, and range from five years up to 30 years imprisonment, if the crime results in the death of the victim.

-- E. The courts systematically prosecute trafficking cases under the prevailing legislation as detailed under A., B., and C. Investigation of and prosecution of trafficking is done according to a Justice Minister's directive which came into force on February 1, 2007. The directive provides police and magistrates a list of indicators to identify victims. The Federal Police in 2008 handled 356 new sexual exploitation cases out of a total of 553 cases reviewed during the year, and 206 new economic exploitation cases in 2008 out of a total of 293 cases. The Federal Police handled 375 child prostitution and sex tourism cases, compared to 197 in 2006. In 2008 the various prosecuting offices, the Federal Prosecuting Office included, handled 387 trafficking cases. Of this total 52.2 percent concerned economic exploitation, and 36.4 percent sexual exploitation. The remaining cases concerned forced begging, forced organ transplant, and forcing individuals to commit crime.

In November 2009 the judicial police of Tongeren arrested four Nigerian nationals who were running a trafficking and prostitution network active in Belgium, The Netherlands and Spain. The four were incarcerated. In October the Mechelen judicial police arrested four people who were trafficking Thai girls who were forcefully employed in massage parlors. In May the judicial police of Tongeren arrested

three persons who were trafficking girls, some under age, for sexual exploitation. In January 2009, the police arrested three persons in connection with exploitation of girls coming from Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Russia. The 2008 arrested a Turkish national female partner who was writing and extorting Bulgarian farmers. On July 1, 2008, the State's office conducted a raid on a hotel where relatives from the U.S. were alleged to be illegally staying. Eleven of the servants with the judicially members were charged. The sheikha and her family and the investigators received between one and five years, 41 between five and ten years, and three more than ten years. Of those sentenced, 196 were also fined and 11 were sentenced to community service. In 46 cases goods were confiscated, and 154 convicts were sentenced to loss of political rights.

In June 2009 the Charleroi first instance court convicted under the prevailing trafficking legislation three Italian professional movers who in their Belgian subsidiary were exploiting workers, not observing the prevailing labor standards concerning wages, nor working conditions. The Italian movers had among their clients NATO-SHAP personnel living in Belgium. On March 19, 2009 the Antwerp Appellate Court convicted under the prevailing trafficking legislation owners of a brothel; they received suspended sentences ranging from two years to 12 months imprisonment. For recruiting girls the bar owners relied on an Albanian trafficking ring. The judge found that the defendants were aware that they exploited trafficking victims. On February 24, 2009, a Brussels judge handed down a four-year and a two-year prison sentence to two Brazilian nationals convicted of trafficking and pimping. On February 19, a judge of the Brussels first instance court awarded one euro moral damage to the CEOCR in a case involving the fraudulent issuance of visas at the Belgian consulate in Sofia in the 1990's. Visas were issued to traffickers operating under the cover of travel agencies. Two defendants stood trial.

In January 2009, the Brussels first instance court handed down four years imprisonment and a 22,000 euro (\$28,600) fine to a Bulgarian member of a trafficking ring. Some of the victims applied for trafficking victim status. On January 26, 2009 the Antwerp district court convicted a lawyer to five years imprisonment and a 5,000 euro (\$6,500) fine for raping an under-age girl and trafficking her from Morocco to Belgium. On December 17, 2008, the Ghent Appellate Court handed down three and four year prison sentences to two Chinese nationals for economic

exploitation and trafficking. The court confiscated assets to the tune of 750,000 euro (\$975,000). The victims were exploited by restaurants and were forced to work six days a week and 12 hours days. The judge also ruled that their housing conditions were inhumane. The victims successfully applied for trafficking victim status.

In November 2008 the Leuven Chamber of Indictment ruled that 32 people would stand trial on smuggling and trafficking charges as members of a criminal organization specialized in arranging fake marriages for Indian and Pakistani men who were seeking to obtain permanent residence in Belgium. On November 26, 2008, the Antwerp Court of Assizes convicted six Iraqi nationals to prison sentences ranging from 3 to 25 years imprisonment for having taken hostage and tortured two Indian nationals in order to obtain a ransom for smuggling the two to the United Kingdom. Defense lawyers argued that both defendants and plaintiffs were members of rival trafficking rings.

In rendering verdicts in economic exploitation cases the courts take into account such elements as confiscation of passports, travel documents and pay, employment and housing conditions, the use of physical force, and sexual abuse.

In its 2008 annual report the CEOCR pointed out difficulties in obtaining the seizure of assets of Bulgarian, Albanian and Romanian nationals convicted in Belgium.

-- F. The Justice Minister and the Board of Prosecutors General

determine prosecution priorities. The board has set up networks for sharing expertise and information among prosecutors. Training on recognizing trafficked persons is well established in law enforcement agencies and procedures for dealing with trafficking cases are well known. The Justice Ministry and the Justice High Council organizes special training for magistrates. The Foreign Ministry provides training for diplomats and federal and local police forces dealing with trafficking. In 2007 the Justice Ministry issued a directive for helping magistrates and police forces in detecting and prosecuting trafficking cases. Prosecutors use a list of 70 indicators to determine whether a trafficking investigation should start. In September 2008 the Interior, Justice, Employment, Foreign Affairs, Social Welfare and Finance ministries jointly issued a directive on coordinating aid to trafficking victims. The directive covered how to identify victims, what action has to be taken by the authorities and agencies dealing with trafficking, how victims have to be directed to shelters and administrative steps to be taken for the victims. Federal police report they are working with the Ministry of Labor to train police officers in recognizing labor trafficking.

-- G. Belgium collaborates regularly with the International Organization for Migration (IOM, the United Nations and the Council of Europe). Belgium cooperates within the Schengen countries' framework to combat visa fraud. Belgian law enforcement has on occasion participated in Joint Investigation Teams composed of investigators from adjacent countries. Belgium intends to increase cooperation along the Belgian, Dutch, and German borders. A Schengen evaluation report issued December 4, 2009, stated that the investigators were impressed with Belgium's multidisciplinary approach which was considered a "best practice." The report praised Belgium for its pioneering role, but noted that despite adequate legislation, there were a relatively low number of convictions for sexual and economic exploitation. Belgium has supported a preventive program for the Great Lakes Region of Africa sponsored by UNICEF. It has contributed to preventive OSCE and IOM programs in Georgia. It has contributed to UNFPA, UNICEF and OHCHR programs for the prevention of violence against women and children in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). It has also contributed to an UNICEF program for combating the child trade in Western Africa.

On October 18, 2009, Belgium's Queen Paola and Swedish Queen Silvia attended an EU-IOM sponsored conference on trafficking held in Brussels under the auspices of the Swedish EU Presidency.

-- H. Belgians and foreign nationals can be extradited under the European arrest warrant. The Belgian Parliament has adopted this European framework decision. Belgium has some 50 extradition treaties in force with other countries. Moreover, the Federal Police exchange information with Europol and Interpol, and countries with which Belgium has bilateral or multilateral cooperation agreements. The Federal Prosecutor acts as Belgium's contact with Eurojust. Belgium frequently sends extradition requests to foreign countries, and it has obtained the extradition of suspects to Belgium. According to the CEOCR, Belgian law enforcement encounters difficulties in obtaining cooperation from Bulgaria, a new EU member state. No trafficking offenders were extradited to the United States.

-- I. and J. There is no evidence of government involvement in or tolerance of trafficking.

11K. There were no reports of Belgian troops participating in international peacekeeping missions becoming involved in trafficking.

-- L. The Belgian authorities identify sex tourism and child pornography as a serious problem and specific legislation for combating these criminal acts has been adopted by Parliament. In 2000 and again in 2008 the Belgian Parliament adopted constitutional provisions on children's rights guaranteeing respect for the moral, physical and sexual integrity of children. In 2005 the lawmakers amended the 1995 act on combating human trafficking and child pornography. New provisions were added to the criminal code enhancing the protection of minors, particularly with regard to trafficking, prostitution and pornography. Prostitution under the age of 18 is presumed to be the result of

coercion or abuse of trust under the law, and sentenced accordingly.

The law of November 2000 has reinforced protection of minors with regard to trafficking, prostitution and pornography. The Federal Police in 2008 registered 3,568 cases of sexual assault and rape involving minors, compared to 3,823 such cases in 2007. The Federal Police registered 338 child prostitution cases in 2008, compared to 330 the previous year. Child prostitution found on the internet can be reported to the police through www.ecops.be. The Justice Ministry registered 39 convictions for child prostitution in 2007, compared to 24 the previous year.

In 2008 the Federal Police registered 565 child pornography cases. In 2009 several arrests were made in child pornography cases. In September, 2009, a police officer was arrested and a judicial investigation was started. The officer was suspended.

128. (U) PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS:

-- A. In 2006, Parliament enacted a complete overhaul of the 1980 Immigration Act, bringing Belgian legislation in line with prevailing EU directives, such as the EU Directive 2004/81 on awarding residence to trafficking victims who opt to cooperate with the authorities. As a result, the prevailing Belgian protections system is now supported by law, and has been extended to certain categories of smuggling victims, including unaccompanied minors, the vulnerable, the deceived, and the ill. The law covers nationals from outside and from within the European Union. Denial of victim status can be appealed through a special judicial college.

Victims have 45 days to decide what to do and can qualify for a renewable 3-month residence permit or a 6-month permit, depending on the state of the judicial investigation. In order to qualify for an extension, the victims have to break all links with the alleged perpetrators and collaborate in the investigation. The prosecutor must determine whether the person is a trafficking victim or a victim of a serious form of smuggling. Victims can obtain permanent residence after the traffickers are sentenced or if the prosecutor files a trafficking case. Victims can file for damages. Prosecutors may request and victims are often granted residence status for cases that have not come to trial.

On September 26, 2008 the government and the College of Prosecutors General issued a directive on multidisciplinary cooperation in victims. The directive sets guidelines on how the federal security and labor inspectorate, administrative, assimilation and assistance services, and the federal police must jointly provide the same rights and victim protection. Victims must immediately and have three months to decide whether they want to ask for protection. If a child fails to qualify under trafficking protection legislation, he or she would still qualify for protection granted to unaccompanied minors illegally staying in Belgium. If the child is presumed to be a trafficking victim he or she is directed to one of the specialized centers operated by the regional governments. The government covers their education and medical expenses.

-- C. The government-sponsored shelters provide trafficking victims with access to legal, medical and psychological services. Judicial assistance is provided by the shelters in collaboration with the police and magistrates. Administrative assistance is provided in conjunction with the Immigration Office. Victims can either stay in safe houses operated by the shelters or opt for an individual dwelling. The shelters also provide psychological aid. The shelters are sponsored at the federal and regional level of government. Funding consists of direct subsidies and wages of collaborators paid by the authorities.

-- D. The September 2008 directive tasks the police, the social security and labor inspection services, the Immigration Office, and the Commissariat for Refugees and Stateless Persons with informing potential victims of their rights, and with directing them to shelters if they wish to apply for trafficking victim status. Depending on the legal proceedings, victims may qualify for temporary and permanent residence.

-- E. Victims qualify for housing, administrative, legal and psychological aid.

-- F. Law enforcement agencies systematically refer persons to shelters, even if they do not immediately identify themselves as trafficking victims. An increasing number of victims are sent to the shelters through agencies other than federal and local police forces.

-- G. In 2008 the three shelters provided assistance to 495 victims, compared to 438 the previous year. Of the total number of 475 for 2008, 202 were new victims. The three shelters noted a significant increase in victims of economic exploitation in 2008 and 2009, to the extent that economic victims outnumbered the victims of sexual exploitation referred to the shelters. Police data showed an increase in victims of sexual exploitation, but this was not reflected in the data of the shelters. The three shelters also registered a growing number of male victims. Most victims assisted by the shelters came from Morocco, China, Iraq, India, Romania, and Brazil. In 2007, 62 victims received full victim status. The most common reason for not achieving victim status was lack of evidence to substantiate a claim of trafficking.

-- H. The procedure for proactively identifying victims is contained in the September 2008 directive issued by the government and the college of prosecutors-general. Employment conditions that are not compatible with prevailing Belgian standards are sufficient grounds to qualify as a victim of trafficking. If a victim is identified by the police or inspection services, they must inform the prosecutor of the judicial district, the Immigration Office, and one of the shelters. In its 2008 annual report, the CEOCR, in its capacity as a watch-dog agency, noted that undocumented victims of economic exploitation often hesitate to collaborate, fearing deportation. The CEOCR also noted that victims of economic exploitation occasionally end up in centers for rejected asylum seekers, before being directed to the shelters.

- I. Victims are not fined, detained, jailed or deported. The average stay in the shelters is between one and six months.

-- J. The system is designed to obtain cooperation from the victims. Victims are encouraged to collaborate with law enforcement agencies during the judicial investigation, but also to start litigation against the offenders. The shelters have the authority to file a lawsuit in their own name or in the name of the victim. When the victim is a material witness in a court case against a former employer, the victim is permitted to seek other employment. Victims can seek restitution.

-- K. Training to recognize trafficked persons is well established in law enforcement agencies, and procedures for dealing with trafficking cases are well known. The Foreign Ministry provided training for its diplomats posted in origin countries.

-- L. There were no Belgian nationals among the victims who needed to be repatriated.

-- M. Belgium collaborates regularly with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), of which it is a founding member, the United Nations and the Council of Europe. Belgium had participated in a multinational IOM project on the training of border guards for assisting victims of trafficking. In July 2007 it organized the first Global Forum on Migration and Development. The Foreign Ministry in Brussels has a department dealing with immigration and asylum issues, and the department is headed by an ambassador. Victims of trafficking have the possibility of free reintegration to their home country within the framework of the REAB program (Return and Emigration of Asylum seekers ex. Belgium). Two special funds have provided financial incentives to facilitate reintegration and return to home countries. The King Baudouin Foundation sponsors projects for the reintegration of trafficking victims in their home countries, Balkan countries in particular. In 2009 the IOM repatriated 5 victims of trafficking, 3 adults and two unaccompanied minors.

129. (U) PREVENTION

-- A. The government acknowledges that trafficking is a problem in the country and fighting trafficking is one of the priorities of the

government's 2008-2011 National Security Plan. "Stop Child Prostitution" is an ongoing nationwide campaign sponsored by Child Focus, the Federal Police, the Defense and Foreign Affairs ministry, the Federation of Transportation Enterprises, Belgian Rail, ECPAT and FIT.

Belgium is also providing financial support to prevention campaigns organized by UNICEF, the OSCE, OIM, FNUAP and OHCHR. The King Baudouin Foundation has conducted information campaigns regarding the situation of diplomatic household personnel.

The CEOCR and Samilia organized a colloquium on April 22, 2009 in the Belgian Senate aimed at generating greater parliamentary interest in trafficking issues. The Vice Premier and Minister for Employment and Equality, Joelle Milquet, addressed the colloquium together with the Minister of Justice. The prosecuting office of the Liege judicial district acts as contact point for the press. In 2009 the authorities and agencies involved in combating trafficking issued a flyer in 27 languages destined for potential trafficking victims.

-- B. The monitoring of immigration is done by the Immigration Office and by the CEOCR, which reports on immigration patterns.

-- C. Coordination is the responsibility of the Interdepartmental Coordination Unit for the Combat against Trafficking and Smuggling.

-- D. In 2008 the government issued a 50-page Trafficking in Persons action plan. The plan was developed with all the ministries and agencies involved in combating trafficking.

-- E. Prostitution as such is not a criminal act, but organizing prostitution and forcing people to prostitute themselves are criminal offences. Measures to rein in prostitution come under the jurisdiction of local governments. Courts vigorously prosecute downloading and the possession of child pornography, as well as soliciting sex with minors. Over the year the police arrested people for organizing prostitution through escort agencies and massage parlors. The Federal Police pointed out that the criminal organizations controlling prostitution in Belgium often operate through female intermediaries. Prostitution in bars is diminishing, while prostitution in massage parlors and through escort services is increasing. There is a significant increase of people prostituting themselves through the internet. Law enforcement agencies encounter great difficulties monitoring this form of prostitution. Several cities and towns have taken measures to curtail prostitution. Following the example of Brussels and Antwerp, the Liege city government closed 51 brothels in September 2008, limiting prostitution to a few registered bars. On January 6, 2009, a Brussels judge handed down a four-year imprisonment sentence and a 22,000 euro (\$28,600) fine to a Bulgarian national for pimping and trafficking.

-- F. "Stop Child Prostitution" is an ongoing program, and each year the authorities focus on a particular aspect, for example, on reporting cases of child prostitution. The prevention campaigns are organized by Child Focus, ECPAT, the National Lottery, Belgian Rail, Brussels Airlines, The Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Defense ministry, Foster Plan, tourism academies, and road transportation organizations. During summer 2008, awareness campaigns were organized at railway stations and airports. The Flemish regional minister in charge of tourism reached an agreement with travel agencies on a code of conduct, specifically aimed at combating trafficking and child prostitution.

-- G. The Defense Ministry provides information and organizes awareness drives for all Belgian troops, in cooperation with the three victims' shelters. Troops deployed in peacekeeping missions receive specific training on how to detect trafficking. Standard procedures have been developed so that troops deployed outside of Belgium are capable of spotting incidents of trafficking. There is a standard procedure for reporting such incidents to commanding officers.

130. (U) Partnerships

Belgium is a party to several international treaties and conventions

dealingwith trafficking. On August 1, 2009, the 2005 ouncil of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings came into force. The convention deals specifically with international cooperation in the trafficking field. There is structured police and judicial cooperation within the Euregio (Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany), the Joint Investigation Teams, Eurojust, Europol, and Interpol. Belgium has also ratified the Prum Convention on stepping up cooperation in combating cross-border crime and illegal migration signed between Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Luxemburg, The Netherlands and Austria. The provisos of the Prum Convention were turned into an EU directive in 2008.

The Belgian shelter Payoke and a Moroccan organization created a partnership to improve to provision of assistance to victims of trafficking in Morocco. The Belgian authorities also started a special information campaign to identify and assist Brazilian victims of economic exploitation. Belgium is co-financing a joint program of UNHCR, UNODC and IOM to combat trafficking in Serbia.

Belgium will hold the rotating presidency of the European Council from July 1 to December 31, 2010, during which time the October 18 European anti-trafficking day will take place. We expect the Belgians to focus on trafficking during their presidency.

END TEXT OF TIP REPORT

GUTMAN